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Friday, May 4, 2012



MIT and Harvard presidents Susan J. Hockfield and Drew Faust announce edX during Wednesday's press conference.

# MIT & Harvard join forces for edX \$60 million project cements MIT's focus on online education

By Ethan A. Solomon

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The world has come to expect great things when the university titans of Cambridge join forces. After all, Harvard and MIT led the international team that cracked the human genome together in 2003.

But now they're going after something wholly different bringing university education online and making it freely available to the world.

Harvard and MIT announced on Wednesday a

major new partnership in the sphere of online learning, called "edX." The effort is an extension of MIT's own MITx initiative - announced last December - which is currently piloting an online circuits and electronics course to 120,000 students.

Harvard and MIT hope edX will enhance on-campus education at both institutions while bringing a Harvard/MIT education to anybody with an Internet connection. Both schools have pledged \$30 million in startup funding for edX.

The move cements online education as a top institutional priority for MIT from now on.

"What we will discover together will help us do what we do better - to more

our campuses - and at the

edX, Page 11



# Presidential search will likely conclude by June

#### Committee still interviewing candidates

By Ethan A. Solomon EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The search process to replace President Susan J. Hockfield is on-track to conclude by early June, according to MIT Corporation officials.

"I think it's progressing very well. The search has been intense," said James A. Champy '63, chair of the joint Corporation-faculty presidential search committee.

According to Champy, it is "highly possible" the search committee will complete its work by the June 7 Corporation meeting, though he noted that the committee would not compromise the thoroughness of the search for the sake of a timing requirement. If necessary, he said, the committee would continue its work into the summer.

Corporation Chairman John S. Reed '61, also a member of the committee, echoed Champy's sentiments.

"The likelihood is we're going to find an appropriate candidate certainly by the summer — which is what we had always hoped," he said.

Technically, the search committee must provide a list of names to the Corporation's Executive Committee, which in turn formally nominates candidates for president. The full MIT Corporation must vote to approve a candidate. In practice, the search committee's recommendations are the only ones given any serious consideration.

Champy and Reed said that if the committee succeeds in putting forth a name by early June, a new president could step into office as early as July 1, especially if the selection is someone already working at MIT. If the Corporation selects a leader from elsewhere, "it could be a matter of a few months," but "by September we would have a new

Presidential search, Page 13

#### Urine for a good time!



Protagonist Bobby Strong (Trevor J. Mulchay '15) leads a rebellion in the MIT Musical Theatre Guild's production of Urinetown, a "tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution." The play will be performed on both Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. in the Kresge Little Theater.

#### IN SHORT

May 11 is the last day for tests! Anonymously report any end-of -term violations to http://ua.mit. edu/committees/scep/violations. A full list of regulations can be found at http://ua.mit.edu/committees/scep/termregs.pdf.

The MITSO concert will take place tonight in Kresge at 8 p.m. Come hear the winner of MITSO's Concerto Competition and the world premiere of Schrödinger's Cat, an original student composition! Free tickets can be reserved online at http://5-4-12mitso.eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The first International Development Career Fair will take place Monday, May 7 in the Bush Room from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

#### MIT takes a second shot at Kendall

Plans for Random's block, extension to Infinite & riverwalk also

By John A. Hawkinson STAFF REPORTER

MIT's new plan for the future of the Kendall Square and the Institute's ern campus envisions an outdoor. extension of the Infinite Corridor from E25 to E53, and a new open "riverwalk" from the Kendall's Point Park along Wadsworth Street to the Charles

(Point Park is the triangular space between Broadway, Main Street, Wadsworth Street, and Third Street. It is dominated by Joe Davis' 1989 sculpture: "Galaxy: Earth Sphere," a fountain of water in the summer and steam in the winter.)

Steven C. Marsh of the MIT Investment Management Company presented MIT's second attempt at a vision for future east-campus development at the Cambridge Planning Board meeting on Tuesday evening.

It was not a zoning proposal and contained no concrete language about zoning changes, housing units, floorarea ratios, etc.; this information will come later, when MIT presents its actual petition, probably on June 18.

Marsh and MITIMCo first presented these development ideas to the planning board over a year ago, with a detailed zoning proposal that was not well-received. The city subsequently started its Kendall-to-Central planning initiative, and MIT allowed its petition to lapse while the city's process went forward.

There were other items on the planning board agenda of interest to the MIT community as well.

#### Changes to Random's block

The area of Massachusetts Avenue from Landsdowne St. to Blanche St., containing the MIT dormitory Random Hall, is owned by a combination of MIT and Forest City Enterprises, the developers of University Park.

Forest City announced plans in December of 2010 to build a fivestory life sciences building at 300 Mass Ave in the nortion of the block

Kendall, Page 12



The north portion of Random Hall's block is slated to become 300 Mass. Ave; a residential building is planned for two blocks north, on Sidney St.

#### The Tech **Hackathon**



Come to The Tech's Hackathon and work on projects using the religion survey data!

Completed projects will be released on the Tech website.

Saturday, May 5, 2012 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Tech Office (W20-483)

#### **PRO-LIFE IS PRO-WOMEN**

Standing up for life is standing up for women and children.

LETTERS, p. 4

#### **PUTIN AND THE MEDIA**

How does the freedom of expression in Russia measure up? OPINION, p. 5

#### THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Two perspectives on MITx and the edX partnership. OPINION, p. 5



#### THE ESSENCE OF **A PORTRAIT**

Alex Katz's prints at the MFA capture the depth of each figure. ARTS, p. 8

#### **MIT AT THE ACADEMY**

MIT professors and alums elected to National Academy of Sciences. NEWS, p. 14

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# Photographers found dead in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — The bodies of three photojournalists were found dismembered Thursday in the eastern state of Veracruz, days after a crime reporter for a national magazine was killed in her house there.

The motives for the killings were not immediately known, and few such cases in Mexico are solved. But human rights groups condemned the deaths as another worrying sign of the vulnerability of journalists reporting on the wave of drug and organized crime violence that has rocked Mexico in the past six years and left more than 50,000 people dead.

"What we have seen in Mexico in the last years is a systematic attempt to muzzle the press that has been successful in various parts of the country, where the press has been effectively censored," said Rosental Alves, director of the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, in Austin, Texas. "This unprecedented blood bath is fueled by a certainty of impunity, as the cases of crimes against the press usually don't even reach a court of law."

The Veracruz journalists killed this past week were the first documented killings of Mexican journalists this year, according to press groups; last year 11 were killed and, according to Article 19, a press freedom group, 44 have been killed in the past six years since drug crime soared and the government began an offensive.

-Karla Zabludovsky, The New York Times

# Latest shift in Jordan's cabinet sows doubts on reform

AMMAN, Jordan — King Abdullah II of Jordan swore in a new Cabinet this week assigned the task of making progress on laws allowing for more government posts to be filled by elections, but political activists and analysts here said Thursday that the quick succession of governments over the past year and a half did not bode well for the prospect of genuine reform.

Since protests inspired by the Arab Spring rocked Jordan 15 months ago, the king has replaced three prime ministers, none of whose governments effected significant change.

The governments "proved a definite truth: that the mechanism of appointing the government is no longer feasible," said Khaled Kalaldeh, secretary-general of the Social Leftist Movement and a member of a national dialogue on the reform process.

The new prime minister, Fayez Tarawneh, 62, held the post in the late 1990s. Educated in the United States, he has also served as foreign minister and as chief of the Royal Court, and he led Jordan's negotiating team that reached a peace agreement with Israel in the 1990s.

—Ranya Kadri and Isabel Kershner, The New York Times

# Societe Generale's results show weakness

PARIS — The French bank Societe Generale said Thursday that its first-quarter net income fell 20 percent from the period a year earlier, as the bank unloaded assets and booked a charge on the cost of its own debt.

The bank's net income in the first three months of the year dropped to 732 million euros (\$963 million), while revenue fell 4.7 percent, to 6.3 billion euros.

The firm took a charge for the revaluation of its own debt; had it not done so, net income would have been 851 million euros, it said. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News and Reuters had forecast net income of 600 million euros to 750 million euros.

Societe Generale's corporate and investment banking unit posted revenue of 1.9 billion euros, down about 18 percent from the first quarter of 2011. The unit's performance was hurt by a decline in the financing and advisory business.

—David Jolly, The New York Times

# France and Greece poised for crucial votes on Sunday

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS — France and Greece vote Sunday in elections that will be closely watched for the future of the European Union and the euro. The votes will once again highlight the emerging crux of the euro crisis: Will democratic politics offer a solution to the economic crisis or just make it worse?

Anxieties are rising again over the shared currency, and these elections are likely to be another blow to a German-designed austerity plan to cure the eurozone's debt and banking crisis. If the French Socialist candidate, Francois Hollande, wins the presidency, as the polls suggest, he plans to challenge Germany, vowing to renegotiate an EU treaty mandating deficit and debt limits in order to add a new emphasis on economic growth.

"It's not for Germany to decide for the rest of Europe," Hollande said on the campaign trail. "If I am elected president, there will be a change in Europe's construction. We're not just any country: We can change the situation."

He intends, he said in a fierce debate Wednesday night with President Nicolas Sarkozy, "to give a new direction to Europe."

Hollande's words may have a degree of campaign bravado, but he is riding a wave of political resistance to austerity that has brought down even the government in the Netherlands, one of the best-run economies in Europe and a close ally of Germany.

Given France's importance, if Hollande wins he might end up leading a sort of "growth bloc," which would challenge the German medicine, or at least try to dilute it.

With the eurozone relapsing into recession and unemployment at 10.9 percent, a record high, the head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, has already called for a "growth pact" in parallel to the fiscal pact.

"There is a race between politics and economic adjustment," said Jean Pisani-Ferry, director of Bruegel, a Brussels research

institution. "We see incumbent governments replaced by others that carry on with painful adjustments. But how long does it take for both sides to be discredited in public opinion by the pain of adjustment?"

The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, struck by the Dutch collapse and stirrings of unease among the opposition Social Democrats, appears to be listening, anxious not to be isolated in Europe and looking to make a gesture toward Hollande, should he win. She is talking herself about new ways to produce growth, including increased lending by the European Investment Bank and using EU funds in a more targeted fashion.

"Growth" is easier to advocate than to produce, of course, and Germany remains opposed to sharp increases in public spending or higher targets for inflation.

Growth is already on the agenda of the EU summit meeting in June, so that would be an easy place to give Hollande an early victory, however symbolic.

# Egypt's military rulers deny role in fatal clashes

By Kareem Fahim and Mayy El Sheikh

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — Egypt's temporary military rulers delivered a sweeping defense of their tenure Thursday, saying they were committed to handing over power to a civil authority by the end of June, and denying any role in clashes the day before that left at least 11 people dead.

And they defended their decision not to send troops to the scene for hours, saying they did not want to escalate the fighting as the clashes intensified in the Abbaseya neighborhood and residents watched, horrified, from balconies. When the security services finally were called in, 12 hours after the conflict erupted, the scene became quiet. The trouble began after assailants attacked protesters staging a sit-in near the Defense Ministry.

"I salute the men of the armed forces, the leaders and officers and soldiers," Gen. Mokhtar el-Mola said at the end of a news conference that lasted nearly two hours. For 15 months, el-Mola said, "they put up with all provocations and violations, but they are honorable men who endure for the sake of the homeland."

Several of Egypt's presidential candidates suspended their campaigns after the clashes, with some voicing concern that the military would seek to use the violence as an excuse to delay the elections, scheduled to begin this month, in a bid to hold on to power.

Another military spokesman who spoke at the briefing, Maj. Gen. Mohammed el-Assar, sought to put those fears to rest.

"When we look at the demands of the protesters, we'll find that the first thing is the handover of power," he said. "Today, we're announcing it honestly and clearly: The armed forces and the supreme council are committed to handing over power before the 30th of June, 2012."

Separately Thursday, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the head of the military council, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, had given him similar assurances.

"They are absolutely going to hand over power," Kerry said during a visit to Cairo. "I think they can't wait."

El-Assar delivered a chronology of the clashes, saying they took place between protesters and the residents of the neighborhood who were angered at the blocking of roads and attacks on stores. Protesters said they suspected that their assailants were thugs allied with a branch of the Egyptian security services.

WEATHER

# Cambridge weather finally 'seasonable'

By Austin DiOrio

The cold damp weather that has plagued the Cambridge area for the past few days will persist into Saturday. Expect rain today with daytime temperatures in the upper 50's. Saturday will be a bit better, with scattered showers and temperatures reaching the mid 60's. By Sunday, expect to

see the sun come out and temperatures remain in the 60's, which is close to the average value for this time of year.

Don't expect the 80°F readings that we saw in mid-April to roll around anytime soon. Next week looks to continue the recent trend of more mild weather. For what seems to be the first time this year, the Cambridge weather matches the season

#### **Extended Forecast**

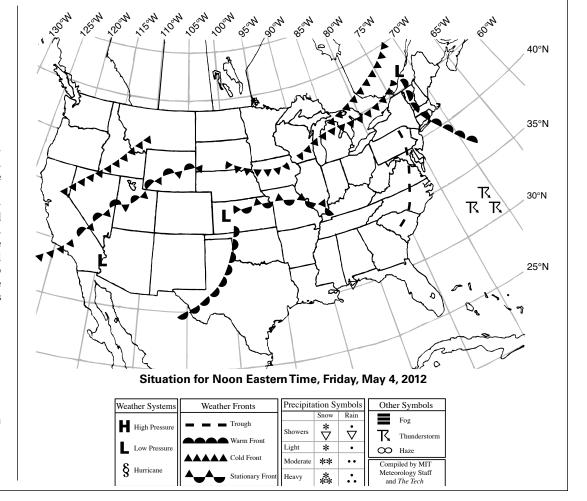
Today: Showers. High 59°F.

Tonight: Chance of showers. Low 50°F.

Tomorrow: Cloudy, with a slight chance of showers. High

61°F.

Sunday: Party cloudy. High 63°F. Low 48°F



Friday, May 4, 2012
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# Brazil increasing military presence along Amazon borders

By Simon Romero

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil is deploying more than 8,500 troops to the far reaches of the Amazon rain forest this month in an operation aimed at cracking down on drug smuggling, gold mining, and illegal deforestation, officials said.

The troop mobilization sends a clear message ahead of the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to take place here in June, that Brazil is taking steps to assert greater control over its porous frontiers in the Amazon. Soldiers are being sent to border areas near Venezuela, Suriname, French Guiana, and Guyana.

"The Amazon is Brazil's No. 1 priority from a strategic viewpoint, given its importance to humanity as a source of water, biodiversity and food production," said Gen. Eduardo Dias da Costa Villas Boas, chief of the Amazon Military Command, in a telephone interview.

The operation, expected to last several weeks, showed its first results Thursday when officials announced the detection of 10 clandestine airstrips in the state of Roraima. The airstrips were being used for illegal mining operations on indigenous territory, Villas Boas said.

Defense Minister Celso Amorim, speaking before the Brazilian Senate in March, said the country was planning to increase its military presence in the Amazon over the next several years. "It's the most vulnerable part of our country," Amorim said. "We have a wealth of resources, which can make us the target of adventures."

Sovereignty over the Amazon, about 60 percent of which is in Brazil, is a sensitive issue among Brazilians, with some military thinkers expounding on perceived threats to the region. The Amazon is also changing fast as it urbanizes; in Brazil, more than 20 million people live in the Amazon. Manaus, in the state of Amazonas, was Brazil's fastest-growing city over the past decade.

In addition to scourges like illegal timber extraction and deforestation for producing pig iron, drug smuggling from neighboring countries has emerged as a big concern. In Amazonian cities like Belem do Para, usage of a cheap variety of crack cocaine has surged, alarming public health officials.

At the same time that lawmakers have carried out a contentious debate over legislation creating new rules for land use in the Amazon for agriculture and ranching, Brazilian military officials have reached out to neighboring countries in an effort to strengthen ties and share information.

For instance, Brazil forged a military agreement this year with Colombia enhancing cooperation along their border in the Amazon. Ahead of this month's operation, Brazilian officials said they went to Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname, explaining to authorities in those countries that the deployment was intended to reinforce the government's presence in some of Brazil's most remote areas.

While Brazil emphasizes that relations are peaceful with all its neighbors, the military still deals with occasional flare-ups of instability in the Amazon.

## Leaving presidency, Russia's Medvedev fights for relevance

By Ellen Barry

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW — President Dmitry A. Medvedev spent last Friday trying to persuade the grandees of United Russia that he is a conservative who can lead the party to victory. But many looked at him and saw Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin's liberal sidekick, who emboldened the opposition and supported the West in Libya.

Medvedev did not fare any better on Saturday, when he met with the prominent liberals who have served as his human rights advisers. They made no effort to hide their disappointment in his presidency, saying an opportunity to change Russia had been allowed to slip away.

Medvedev, who will step down from the presidency next week, has said he hopes to play a role in Russian politics for a long time; still just 46, he hints that he may run for president again in 2018, when Putin's third term ends. Right now, though, he is fighting for political relevance, after spending an entire presidential term in Putin's shadow.

The announcement in September that Putin would return as president dealt a heavy blow to the younger man's profile, suggesting that he meekly surrendered a position he wanted. He smelled of weakness — a dangerous thing in a system that venerates strength. The problem is an immediate one now, as he prepares to take the post of prime minister and the chairmanship of United Russia.

"Putin paid a bit of a price for humiliating him in that way," said Stephen Sestanovich, a Russia scholar at the Council on Foreign Relations. "He is really deeply, deeply damaged goods as a result of this very, very badly bungled switch. If he is supposed to be effective, he needs a makeover. He needs a reinvigoration. He needs a demonstration that he is not a joke."

He got a taste of the challenges

ahead as soon as the job-swap was announced. The first to react was Finance Minister Alexei L. Kudrin, a Kremlin heavyweight and a Putin loyalist, who said he would leave government rather than report to Medvedev as prime minister. Medvedev responded with the kind of public dressing-down that sends a message of raw dominance, demanding that Kudrin resign on the spot and daring other dissenters to follow him.

The president's prestige was dwindling anyway. News outlets that for years had featured Medvedev more prominently than Putin stopped covering his activities intensively. During the first three months of this year his name was mentioned one-third as often as Putin's, according to Medialogia, a Moscow consulting firm. Medvedev's approval rating fell to 27 points below Putin's last month, after staying within 10 points for most of his presidency, according to the All-Russian Public Opinion Center.

# Study finds concerns regarding readiness for cyberattacks

By Michael S. Schmidt

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A study commissioned by President Barack Obama to assess the nation's ability to respond to terrorist attacks and man-made and natural disasters has found that state and local officials have the most confidence in their public health and medical services but are the most concerned about whether agencies can respond to cyberattacks.

The report, conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said that state and local officials also felt unprepared to provide adequate housing in their communities after a disaster.

Called the National Preparedness Report, the assessment is the first of its kind released by the federal agency and was intended to serve as a baseline for preparedness.

In March 2011, Obama signed a directive ordering the federal gov-

ernment to release an annual report on the nation's response capacities, which have received intense scrutiny since the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

The report said that the nation had a highly responsive health care system, in part because a significant majority of hospitals have the staff, training and capacity to deal with epidemics and other medical emergencies. All but three states said they had "sufficient staffing capacity to work five 12-hour days for six to eight weeks" in response to an epidemic.

It also praised the coordination among federal, state and local officials for sharing information and intelligence, and the ability of the authorities to deploy lifesaving and lifesustaining operations quickly.

But it was the report's findings about cybersecurity that appeared to be the most troubling, and they continued a drumbeat from the Obama administration about the need for Congress to pass legislation giving the Department of Homeland Security the authority to regulate computer security for the country's infrastructure.

The report said that cybersecurity "was the single core capability where states had made the least amount of overall progress" and that only 42 percent of state and local officials believed that their cybersecurity was adequate.

Although a little more than 80 percent of officials said they had adopted cybersecurity measures, 45 percent said they did not have a formal program to prevent and respond to attacks.

The report said that roughly twothirds of those officials reported that they had not updated their "information security or disaster recovery plans in at least two years."

The report did cite the Secret Service, which has been battered recently by a prostitution scandal, for "dismantling some of the largest known cybercriminal organizations."

# European Central Bank opposes higher taxes

BARCELONA, Spain — Ahead of crucial elections this weekend in France and Greece, Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, warned governments Thursday against the "easier road" of raising taxes to fill public coffers, saying it would not solve Europe's economic problems.

He spoke from the current ground zero of the European debt crisis, Spain, where the central bank's governing council happened to be holding one of two meetings each year it schedules outside the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt.

The central bank officials met under heavy police protection intended to shield them from any possible street protests over European austerity measures. No big demonstrations materialized. But the bunker atmosphere might have in some ways symbolized the distance between the central bank's policymaking and the anxious mood of much of the European public.

"Is having helicopters and snipers on the roofs the way the ECB wanted to show its face and meet the Spanish people?" asked Edward Hugh, an economist in Barcelona.

The central bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged, at 1 percent, choosing not to react immediately to signs that the eurozone economy was continuing to deteriorate. Analysts had expected no action on rates.

-Raphael Minder and Jack Ewing, The New York Times

# Methodists keep stricture on homosexuality

The United Methodist Church at its convention in Tampa, Fla., on Thursday voted against changing long-contested language in its book of laws and doctrines that calls homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching."

The vote was 61–39 percent against the change to the church's Book of Discipline. The delegates also defeated by a similar margin a compromise proposed by gay rights advocates, which said that Methodists could acknowledge their differences on homosexuality while still living together as a church.

In other historic mainline Protestant denominations in the United States, liberals have prevailed so far in the battles over homosexuality. The Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have all voted in recent years to end their outright prohibitions on openly gay clergy members. But in the United Methodist Church, theological conservatives have held sway in the 40 years that the church has been debating the issue.

The votes set off a protest inside the convention. Gay rights supporters gathered around a communion table at the center of the hall, singing.

—Laurie Goodstein, The New York Times

# In letters, bin Laden fretted over legacy and relevance

WASHINGTON — Sitting in his secret refuge, hiding from the world, Osama bin Laden spent the last months of his life rethinking strategy, worrying about his legacy and struggling to maintain control over the sprawling terrorist network that operated in his name.

He had grown disgruntled with far-flung offshoots theoretically under his umbrella and fretted that too many of the "brothers" were alienating Muslims with attacks on fellow believers. He agitated for spectacular missions, including the assassination of President Barack Obama. And he considered a marketing campaign to change the infamous network's name.

The portrait of bin Laden's life in the compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, emerges from a sheaf of letters released Thursday that provide a sort of anthropology of a terror network. The frustrations expressed by bin Laden as he issued instructions sometimes in vain might be familiar to any chief executive trying to keep tabs on a multinational corporation that had grown beyond its modest origins.

And he fretted about how he would be remembered by history. "He who does not make known his own history," he wrote to one of his lieutenants, runs the risk that "some in the media and among historians will construct a history for him, using whatever information they have, regardless of whether their information is accurate or not."

—Peter Baker, The New York Times

# Deadly crackdown reported on Syrian university

BEIRUT — A violent clampdown by Syrian security forces against a student demonstration at Aleppo University ended with at least four students killed, including one heaved out a fifth-floor window, and scores arrested, activists and opposition organizations said Thursday.

The university announced on its website that it was suspending classes until final exams on May 13, and it closed its sprawling dormitory complex, with troops pushing thousands of students to leave. Students camped out overnight on rooftops and campus lawns, while the roads outside the university were crowded with departing students and piles of luggage, as shown in videos and pictures posted online.

The suppression prompted sympathy rallies at universities around Syria and a large march through a nearby Aleppo neighborhood with protesters chanting "We don't want Bashar!" — a reference to President Bashar Assad.

Small protests also continued to flare on the Aleppo campus, with one shaky amateur video showing a group of female students shouting, "The Syrian army are traitors!" while soldiers growled, "Back off!"

The opposition umbrella organization, the Syrian National Council, called for a nationwide strike by students in solidarity with Aleppo University, one of the country's largest public universities with 60,000 students. The bloody repression of the student protest further eroded a truce negotiated under U.N. auspices, since one pillar of the plan is the right to hold peaceful demonstrations.

—Neil MacFarquhar, The New York Times



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# Governance and the community

Let me comment on Barun Singh's letter with a few short observations.

The issues that Barun raises are of profound importance to all of us. I believe he would be reassured to know the depth and intensity with which the Executive Committee and the Presidential Search Committee are engaged on the topics of governance and community.

Barun's comments will certainly add texture to these discussions.

As an MIT graduate, I particularly appreciate hearing the perspective of students and, like Barun, I believe our practice of having recent graduates as members of the Corporation is a great avenue for those who want to engage.

John S. Reed '61, Chairman of the MIT

# Standing for life and women's rights

In the wake of recent debate on legislation, there has been a wave of opinion articles, both on various websites and in print, suggesting that the pro-life movement is trying to undermine women's health, and that pro-life policies are fundamentally anti-women. I would like to address these concerns, and argue that standing up for life is not only standing up for developing children but, in fact, also standing up for

women's emotional and physical health.

First of all, elective abortions pose a significant risk to women's mental health. A study recently published in *The British Journal of Psychiatry* reviewed 22 previous studies on post-abortion mental health. Using the medical records of 877,181 participants, 163,831 of whom have experienced an abortion, the author concluded that "women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81% increased risk of mental health problems". In other studies, abortion is also linked to an increased risk of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts, hospitalization for psychiatric treatment, and chronic relationship problems.

What about women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault? Rape is always a tragedy I do not think anyone would dispute that. Advocates of elective abortions often refer to rape victims to justify their stance, saying women in this situation need abortions. However, their argument is misguided. First, most rape victims do not actually want abortions — 75-85% choose to give birth, according to a survey conducted by the Elliot Institute. Second, research shows that most of those who do choose abortion — frequently due to pressure from counselors and/or family members — regret their decision, while all who choose to carry their pregnancy to term are happy they did (see Reardon, Makimaa & Sobie, Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault (Springfield, IL: Acorn Books, 2000) 19-22.). Post-rape abortion does not help women heal, rather, it traumatizes them more. They not only have to deal with the emotional turmoil of the rape, but also that of the abortion.

The psychological effects are causes for great concern in and of themselves, but even more so when considered along with the physical effects. Approximately 10% of women experience immediate complications after an abortion, such as hemorrhage, cervical injury, or infection. Many health issues take much longer to develop, and manifest as overall decreased reproductive health later in life, such as an increased risk of miscarriage, premature delivery and ectopic pregnancy. The association of abortion with increased rates of cervical, ovarian, and liver cancer is also worrying. Teenagers (who account for 30% of all abortions) and women who have had multiple abortions are much more likely to experience these medical problems.

Having reviewed the emotional and physical harm abortion can do to women, now we come to the question: why would women want to subject themselves to all this? The answer is: they don't. They are told it is OK, they are made to feel like it is the only logical decision if they face an unplanned pregnancy. While some claim abortion should be an available "choice", many women feel they do not have a choice at all. Lately, some have declared pro-life efforts are a "war on women". I do agree that there is, in fact, a war on women today. However, pro-life activists are not the ones wielding the sword. The real war is waged by those promoting abortion, whether they realize it or not.

Georgina Botka '14

# 11 hours: ducking responsibility and leading from behind

#### Sunday marked a historic milestone in the history of the US Senate

By A. J. Edelman

The United States has a spending problem. Like an immature teenager with a brand new credit card, it keeps purchasing and purchasing with no regard as to how the purchases will ultimately be paid for.

But for members of the federal government, when it comes to addressing the issue of deficit spending, it is almost like watching an episode of Kids Say the Darndest Things. Line up those in charge of affecting fiscal policy and be prepared for some of the craziest, nonsensical one-liners you can imagine. Take Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner for instance - how would he address federal deficit spending? "You are right to say ... 'we [don't] have a definitive solution to that long-term problem (deficit spending).' What we do know is, we don't like yours (the Republican budgets)." Or, we don't have a plan ourselves, but we do know that we don't like your plan.

Well, the Treasury Secretary himself is not an adequate sample size. Surely there are other members of the government who do have a plan? How about Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader? "We do not need to bring a budget to the floor this year. It's done. We don't need to do it," he said.

In other words: maybe next year, folks. The interesting thing about next year, though, it never seems to roll around. In fact, as of Sunday, the U.S. Senate had failed to pass a budget for three straight years. Think about that — three years, or about two and a half times as long as it took to build the Empire State Building. By the time the Senate considers passing a budget again, it will have

been possible for someone to get two MBAs, or an MIT bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, the House has passed a budget for each of the past two years. Like any prolonged problem, there are long term solutions that can be implemented to ultimately reverse the damage, and create new opportunity.

One essential step is to have a plan — any plan. And for the federal government that means a budget. Recently, President Obama has been discussing a possible solution to the issue of the national deficit — the proposed Buffett Rule. It seems to be the single most important piece of economic reform the administration is currently touting. This proposed law would raise the minimum amount of taxes paid by individuals mak-

creased entitlement spending, the legacy of the Bush administration. The time was ripe for change, and this was a chance for the new administration to fix the problem before it got too big. Unfortunately though, the administration not only failed to address the problem, it furthered it. The national debt exploded, almost tripling in three years, and as a percent of GDP is projected to hit 90 percent by 2020 (up from 41 percent in 2008). The debt has maintained its increase even while both wars have come to a close.

Meanwhile, the federal government has relied on short-term continuing resolutions to continue operating. Balanced Budget amendments were ridiculed, and pork-

# By the time the Senate considers passing a budget again, it will have been possible for someone to get two MBAs, or an MIT bachelor's degree.

ing more than one million dollars per year. Sounds like a good plan. After all, the way to pay off credit is by having more money, right? Finally, a bold solution to a major problem. Running the numbers, the Buffett Rule would result in tax increases on a whopping .15 percent of Americans, and the 5 billion dollars it would raise would allow us to fully pay off our deficit for an impressive 11 hours.

Truth is, on the issue of spending reform, President Obama and the 111th Congress inherited a mess. Deficits and the national debt had been climbing for almost a decade, and government expenditures had increased thanks to two costly wars and in-

spending reform was not even addressed. Medicare reform was out of the question, and K-12 education spending (up 219 percent over the past decade) was off-limits. The president's budgets have been so outlandish that not a single Senator voted for his proposed 2012 budget, and not a single house member voted for his proposed 2013 budget.

This is the essence of leading from behind and ducking responsibility. It is a shame that those in positions of authority who have the ability to put our fiscal house in order have not done so. It is time for the president and the Senate to finally propose real solutions to this very real problem.

#### **OPINION POLICY**

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#### Freedom: alive and well

#### Russia's Internet police is toothless compared to its Chinese counterpart

By Florence Gallez

STAFF COLUMNIST

The objectivity of pro-Western (for lack of a better denominative) reports on the recent street and Internet activism in Russia must be questioned in a number of areas.

Depictions by U.S. and other Englishlanguage media of a Stalinesque Putin holding freedom of expression by the neck and strangling it simply do not hold when we consider the lively and unrestrained debates on the Russian Net. What is there that a Russian citizen today cannot write in a blog or online forum? Visions of the KGB (now FSB) breaking into your living room to arrest you over a LiveJournal comment, as sometimes allusively painted by the Western press, simply do not match the reality.

Reports of a criminal investigation launched against Moscow-based blogger Arkady Babchenko over an online post seem not only an isolated case, but also the result of a personal dispute.

Aside from isolated cases like this one, which are often reported by Western media as evidence of large-scale censorship, the Russian government has not appeared to have the technical means, discipline, or will — or all three — to regulate online speech as systematically and efficiently as China's Internet police does, for example. Rather, acts of repression have been much more random, selective, and minor if compared with some authoritarian states. Judging by how much prominent blogger and activist Alexey Navalny has been able to say on his LiveJournal and Twitter pages, unimpeded, or more broadly speaking, how a crucial role online social media has played in unmasking electoral fraud and rallying protesters, it is clear that free speech on the Russian Net is alive and well.

Clearly, if the government truly wanted to control speech on the Internet, it would have introduced restrictive legislation a long time ago. So far, there is no sign of this.

Similarly, the arrests of street demon-

strators, widely reported by the media as evidence of a Soviet-style crackdown on dissent, take on a slightly different tone than Goulag-like repression if we consider a few factors rarely mentioned in Western press reports. While no doubt traumatized by the experience, most of the people arrested were detained for just a few hours. Navalny himself, presented by the news media to be one of the most vocal and biggest "threats" to the government, was released after paying a 1,000 rubles (\$34) fine.

It is also interesting to look at whom gets arrested and for what reasons. In the city of Kazan, police reportedly detained over 100 protesters, mostly in their early 20s, for failure to disperse. It might be worth asking here if the Kremlin really feels "threatened" by these youths, and is arresting them out of a real fear of escalating discontentment across the country, as many American media have depicted Putin and his policies.

I am more tempted to believe that the much-criticized clampdowns on pro-de-

mocracy supporters are more a show of force for domestic consumption, perhaps as a method of dissuasion, than a genuine fear of "the power of the people," "the destabilizing foreign elements aiding them," and Western-style Democracy uprooting anything Russian and taking its place on Russia's territory.

Such views of a Putin — and by extension Russia — as authoritarian because scared of losing power over his/its people are a recurrent theme in American and foreign media reports. In fact, recent commentaries by major media outlets on third-term Putin seem to rejoice in predicting a weakened president: "Russia's presidency: The beginning of the end of Putin," clamors *The Economist*; while University of Virginia Professor Allen C. Lynch also shows doubt in Putin's abilities by asking in a commentary for CNN.com, "Will Putin be able to make Russia great?"

This article is the sixth in a series on Russia's presidential election, popular street protests, and Putin's new presidency.

#### **GUEST COLUMN**

#### The view from the virtual classroom

#### Does MITx live up to the hype?

By Reid Ashe

MITx and its spawn, edX, are much in the news, but do they merit the hype? Let me give you the view from the cheap seats.

For the last nine weeks, I've been plowing through the pilot class, 6.002x, along with roughly 90,000 unseen classmates. I also was a Course VI major in the Class of 1970. So I'm one of the few (probably) who've seen it both ways.

Here are the headline observations:

Here in the back of the virtual lecture hall, I'm having a lot of fun. The concept works. You can really learn this way.

It's no substitute for the real thing. There's no UROP, no late-night bull sessions, no personal contact with the professors. There are none of the things that create a culture, and few exercises of the creative mind. Skeptics point out, quite correctly, that this replicates only the low-value tier of an MIT education.

Perhaps so, but it's still great stuff. MIT has a tradition of superb lecturers and lucid instruction in basic skills. Anant Agarwal has skillfully transposed the best of that online. He conveys infectious excitement about the material he's teaching, which is no small trick when you're speaking into a recording machine. And he's clearly more impressed with his subject than with himself.

It's the greatest bargain on earth. You can't beat free.

In place of tutorials, there are discussion forums. You can usually find help when you need it, but you have to hunt. Some people think the forums are just great, but I'd rather have a real TA.

Thinking ahead, it's hard to envision this seriously changing life on campus. There should be spill-over benefits, such as the slick little lab simulations. In general, though, the transfer of benefits will run outward.

Beyond the campus, this could change

the world. Imagine you're running Dogpatch Community College, or its equivalent in the developing world. Add a local tutor to augment this, and you can offer top-flight technical education at minimal cost. This can drastically extend the offerings and reduce the cost of education worldwide.

Imagine what happens if other institutions take the bait, as Harvard seems to have done, and this develops as its proponents envision. We could see a global flowering of abundant knowledge for anyone, anywhere. It's as available for the amusement of old guys like me as for the launch of young people's budding careers.

Not quite the impact of Gutenberg's press, but if you think about, not necessarily far short.

To add a personal note, I undertook this with trepidation. After graduating in Course VI, I spent my entire career in nontechnical jobs and thus I had to knock 40 years of rust off my math skills. It was a pleasant surprise to

find it comes back. Not without work, but the old neural pathways, though disused, are still there. Thanks for that, MIT.

It's also fun to see how the field has changed. The physics and the calculus are the same, of course, but the applications are different and so is the syllabus. In the late 60's it was all about signal processing. Now it's all about digital devices. It also appears we're covering more ground than in my old 6.01.

The mathematical derivations — the reasons why the math works — seem clearer now. Maybe I didn't pay as much attention before, or maybe that's the result of four decades' forgetfulness. Or maybe it's to Professor Agarwal's credit. But I have the sensation of deeper understanding.

Overall, count me a believer, on the basis of real experience. I'm sure our numbers will increase

Reid Ashe '70 is a member of the MIT Corporation and a former Tech managing editor.

**GUEST COLUMN** 

## edX is freeing education

#### This could revolutionize the way we learn

By David L. Ku

This Wednesday, MIT President Susan Hockfield and Harvard President Drew Faust announced the edX platform for online education. I have been taking the pilot edX course 6.002x this semester, but it wasn't until I saw these two women speak that I realized just how big this initiative could be. 6.002x is already an incredible technological achievement that accurately replicates an introductory Course VI class on the Internet. After the announcement this Wednesday, this revolutionary online experience of MIT classes made the leap to become a multi-institutional platform that could transform the delivery of education worldwide.

edX is not the first foray into online education. Last fall, Stanford professor Sebastian Thrun opened up his introductory AI class to thousands of students around the world. He then left the university to found Udacity, which offers a series of CS courses. There is also Coursera, a company started by Stanford professors, which has already partnered with Princeton, UMich, and UPenn to offer courses ranging from Mythology to Cryptography. However, these two products are both creations of for-profit companies. Perhaps the one resource most closely aligned with edX is the non-profit Khan Academy, started by Salman Khan '98 (commencement speaker for the class of 2012!). By staying non-profit, edX can honestly claim to make an MIT or Harvard education available to anyone with the will to pursue it.

The current model for post-secondary education is far from ideal and is often inefficient. Most course material is distributed only during lecture, which is limited in both time and place. The material remains largely unchanged from semester to semester and can even worsen if a weaker professor makes changes to a class. Similar classes use similar material from institution to institution, yet it is disconnected rather than synthesized into one best-in-class course. Most significantly, this education is limited to the select group of students admitted to colleges around the world. In many cases, this group represents only the students with the support and resources to win the college admissions game, despite ongoing efforts to the contrary.

What is stopping us from bringing the and into the commons? One might propose that it is infeasible to teach all the world's population at once. However, technology has made this a trivial obstacle. Lectures can be recorded with incredible fidelity and streamed to any connected machine in the world. Books, tutorials, and problem set solutions can all be served up on the web. Scripts can be written to generate unique homework problems and grade them in real time. Web applications are as dynamic as anything written for the desktop. The technology we have built over the last few decades not only makes online education feasible, it makes it the next logical step in improving the way we learn.

The other, more sinister, objection is that only the select group admitted into the world's best institution deserves its education. If edX advances to the point where there is no distinguishable difference between an online education and a brick and mortar education, it may be that an online certification gains the same significance as an MIT degree. Laws of supply and demand tell us that a saturated market dilutes the value of each individual unit. However, it may be time to consider an entirely new paradigm for education. Rather than treat-

ing college degrees as credentials for future employment, let's treat them as foundations of knowledge that transcend any piece of paper. Let everyone have access to the same training, and let people be judged by the merit of their work rather than by the name of an institution.

This, of course, is a radical change. Colleges and universities around the world will need to rebrand themselves as something other than gatekeepers of education. Students might no longer need to proceed through the educational system in lockstep grade levels, but instead learn new thing as soon as they are ready for them. Education might no longer be limited to a set curriculum of courses taken over four years, but could become a lifetime of learning in all kinds of different fields. Most importantly, education may finally become a resource as freely available as air or sunlight. And education deserves to be an open resource. The knowledge steadily accumulated by years and years of experimenting, failing, discovering, and learning belongs to all people.

Traces of the revolt against the current model of education can be seen around the world. In the U.S., primary and secondary educators desperately search for a better solution. The value of college is questioned in the face of tuition costs rising faster than inflation and federal loans being cut by the government. Successful entrepreneurs, such as Peter Thiel, are paying MIT students \$100,000 to drop out to pursue their true ambitions. Successful students, such as my roommate, are leaving MIT to become successful entrepreneurs on their own. Perhaps the traditional four-year college experience is no longer necessary in our modern society. Perhaps there is room for a new way of

For all of its potential, edX still has many

hurdles to overcome before it comes close to touching the traditional model of education. edX cannot replicate the residential experience where students live and work alongside one another, and professors are available inperson. As I think back, my most valuable experiences at MIT have come from learning material with my peers, tackling problems together, and bouncing crazy new ideas off of one another. The diversity of people you meet and experiences you will have in college are unparalleled. They are surely some of the most formative of your life. An online classroom will not be able to simulate the mentorship you get from professors, the opportunity to raise your hand in class, or the ability to randomly stroll in for office hours. Professors won't be around to moderate discussions or to cultivate your raw crazy ideas into plans for focused research.

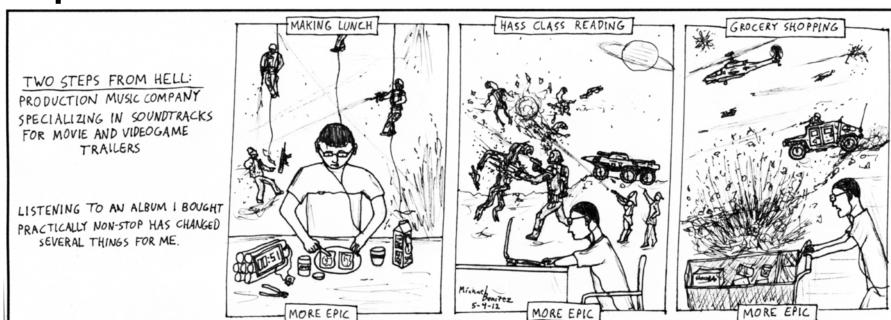
Nonetheless, I left the press conference this Wednesday with dreams of a radically different world. You know you have truly forward thinking idea when two of the strongest global brands in education are willing to disrupt a business model that has been successful for hundreds of years. I may be wrong about this (I was wrong about Google Wave), but edX could transform the face of education and — through education — transform the world. This marriage of technology, one of the greatest magnifiers of human initiative, and education, one of the greatest incubators of human potential, could end up being really big.

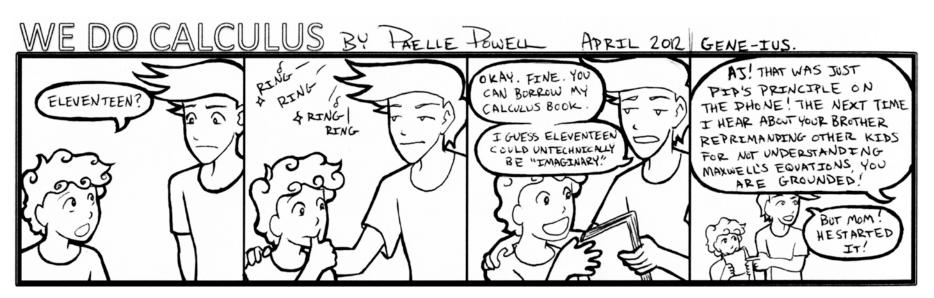
The scary thing is that we've only seen the first iteration. Online education is just getting started and the iteration five years down the road will look nothing like it does today. For all of its flaws, I hope that edX does become big and unlocks the gates of education for anyone with the will to seek it.

David L. Ku is a senior in Course 6.

# UNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUNF

#### Help Desk by Michael Benitez











#### Sudoku

Solution, page 10

|   | 5                                       |   |            |   |   |   |            | 8 |
|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|------------|---|
|   | <b>5 3</b>                              |   |            | 8 | 9 |   | 2          |   |
|   |   | 9 |            | 6 | 4 |   | 1          |   |
|   |   | 6 | 7          |   | 5 |   | 8          | 9 |
|   |   |   |            |   |   |   |            |   |
| 9 | 2                                       |   | 4          |   | 6 | 5 |            |   |
|   | <ul><li>2</li><li>9</li><li>6</li></ul> |   | <b>4 6</b> | 4 |   | 1 |            |   |
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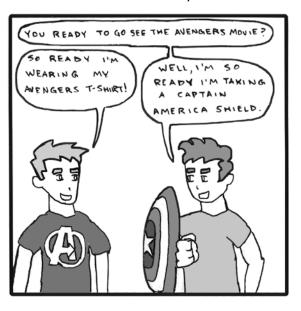
#### Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

#### **Techdoku**

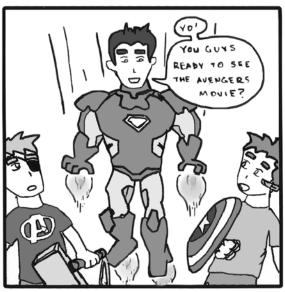
Solution, page 10

| 40× |          |     | 30×      |         | 3× |
|-----|----------|-----|----------|---------|----|
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|     | 6÷       | 24× |          | 12×     |    |
| 6   | <b>-</b> |     | 5        | <b></b> | 2  |
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| 90× |          |     |          | 144×    |    |
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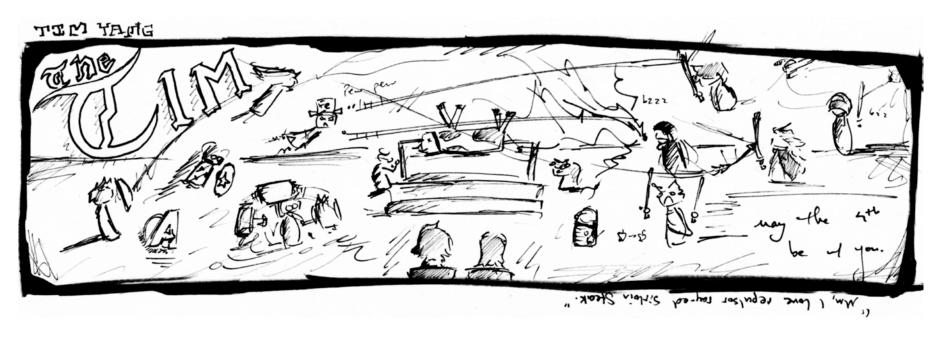
#### **UPPERCUT** by Steven Sullivan







DE BLACK WIDOW PISTOL WOO BYZYWAN A





by Jorge Cham









WWW. PHDCOMICS. COM

#### WE FOUR by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 10

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Prosperous periods
- 6 Grouchy one 10 Baby wolf
- 13 Planetary path
- 14 Time of day
- 15 "Not to mention . . ."
- 16 "Just missed!" 17 Stamp on sirloin
- 18 Sophomore, for example
- 19 Assent at sea 21 Tamer's workplace
- 22 One of the Pep Boys
- 23 Lunar feature
- 25 Stand fast against 29 Erstwhile anesthetic
- 31 Prez, e.g.
- 32 Have the lead
- 34 Old hat
- 38 Wizard's work
- 40 Olympics chant
- 41 Mirrors' partner
- 42 Right away
- 43 Sub boss of fiction

- 45 Prevent a sinking
- 46 Arm-twisted 48 Overly flattering
- 50 Muffet's visitor
- 53 In the manner of
- 54 Child's plea
- 55 Public speaker's concern
- 62 Rights org.
- 63 Lawsuit basis
- 64 Actress Liv
- 65 Grasslands
- 66 Niagara River feeder
- 67 Diminish gradually
- 68 Like some wit 69 Extend credit
- 70 Paint base

#### **DOWN**

- 1 City south of West Palm
- 2 Paris airport
- 3 Orchestra pitch-setter
- 4 "Everything else" abbr. 5 Prepares clams, perhaps
- 6 Water-park slide

- 7 Santa \_\_, CA
- 8 Bavarian carmaker 9 Subsidiary office
- 10 Soccer shoe part
- 11 Choice of words
- 12 Auger or drill
- 15 Bart Simpson shout 20 Poker stakes
- 24 Salespeople
- 25 Catch one's breath
- 26 Trade show
- 27 Feeder filler 28 Robert Graves historical
- novel
- 29 Lightened
- 30 Disneyland shuttle
- 33 iPod selection
- 35 Rise sharply
- 36 Study quickly
- 37 Hard to grasp
- 39 Harp cousin
- 44 Scandinavian capital 47 Grimm girl
- 49 Place for a vase
- 20 23 24 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 38 40 41 42 43 46 50 51 52 55 56 57 54 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 69 68
- 50 Parboil
- 51 Harness-race horse
- 52 Mosaic element
- 53 Feigned
- 56 Olden days
- 57 ESPN reporter Andrews
- 58 Supermodel Banks
- 59 Gobs
- 60 Convey formally 61 Jurassic Park menace

#### **EXHIBIT REVIEW**

### **Prints come alive**

Works by Alex Katz explore the essence of portraiture, on view at the MFA

By Sarah Weir STAFF WRITER

I'm sure that most of us are familiar with the "experimental" nature of contemporary art. While some of these works are stimulating, when I consider the great paintings from the Renaissance or the Impressionists in comparison to conceptual art and other modern art movements, I sometimes wonder if figure painting will ever "come back."

Enter Alex Katz.

Katz was born in 1927, studied at The Cooper Union (a small college in New York City which only has three schools: architecture, art, and engineering), and then at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. He was able to find his own way in a time of abstract expressionism by making portraiture just as expressive and invigorating as the work of his contemporaries. His works are reductive, with subtle modeling in the face and an emphasis on form and color. Sometimes the faces he paints seem distorted, but it doesn't really matter. His point is to capture the essence of each figure, which he certainly does with his biting color schemes.

Katz first creates his works as paintings and then transforms many of them into

subject and Katz has done exactly that. You'll see the same picture in a range of styles throughout the exhibit; from prints in monochrome to a variety of colors.

Those who have visited the MFA recently have likely seen their new contemporary wing and noticed how different it is from the rest of the museum — the modern style aligns well with the art. The MFA is doing a good job of putting us headfirst into the world of the art, especially in their special exhibitions (I'm thinking specifically of the Chihuly show from last year). I was excited to see how they would portray Katz's works, and was pleasantly surprised.

Instead of organizing the works chronologically, the curators chose to make the focus of each separate room a different theme from Katz's prints. The rooms focus on depictions of his family, specifically on Ada (his wife and muse), landscapes, fashion, and his connection with poetry. Every time you enter a new room you are thrust into a new world.

This effect is most obvious in the room that displays Rush, a portrait series composed of 37 painted aluminum cut-out heads hanging on the wall at eye-level. Upon entering the room, you're surrounded by floating heads on all sides. Each has



COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON. GRAPHISCHE SAMMLUNG ALBERTINA, VIENNA. PHOTOGRAPH @ALBERTINA, VIENNA; PETER ERTL. ART © 2011 ALEX KATZ/LICENSED BY VAGA, NEW YORK, NY "Blue Umbrella," now on view at the MFA, depicts Alex Katz's wife and muse, Ada.

tion with one of these figures and you're becoming more and more cultured by the second.

My favorite painting by Katz has always been "Blue Umbrella," which depicts Ada in a patterned red scarf holding a blue umbrella in the rain. While the title might make you focus on the umbrella at first, it's really impossible to tear your eyes away from the detail in the scarf. Once you look even closer, you see Ada's melancholy expression which seems to match the weather she's in. The rain is illusionary — you know that it's outside the umbrella and in the foreground, yet the single drop placed by her eye makes you wonder if she might be crying.

Even though his prints are so distilled, so "simple," his portraits have a soul and a profound beauty. They're obviously twodimensional — but they're also alive. Katz **Alex Katz Prints** 

Alex Katz

Museum of Fine Arts, Gund Gallery

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012

April 28, 2012 - July 29, 2012

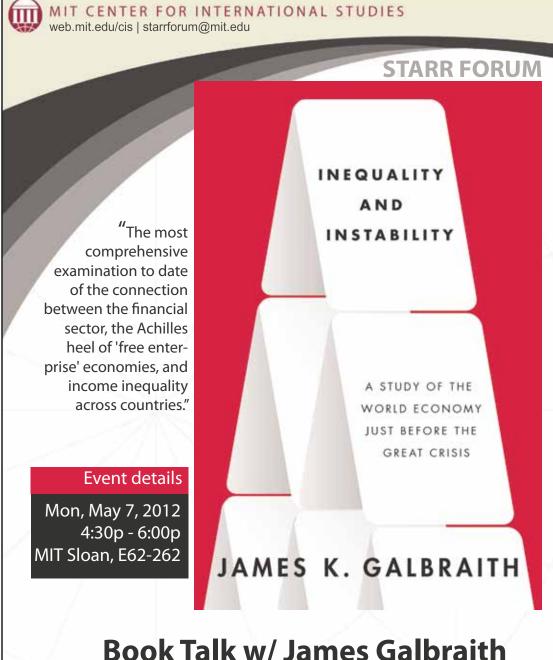
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is primarily a colorist, and the vividness of his prints makes it even more important that they're viewed in person. You won't get the same effect from Google images, no matter how good your screen's resolution

#### You feel like you've gone back in time — you're having a conversation with one of these figures and you're becoming more and more cultured by the second.

prints, which is the bulk of the current exhibit at the MFA. If his paintings are already reductions of life, these prints are even more simplified. By distilling the painting into a print, the vibrant color he uses is even more emphasized.

The print genre allows the artist to experiment with different colors on the same a different expression, and some are of different proportions, but somehow they all seem real. Each portrait is of an important cultural figure from the 1960s or 1970s, including people from dance, literature, music, art, and art criticism. It's a little overwhelming. You feel like you've gone back in time - you're having a conversa-



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# **Urine good hands?**

#### MTG's Urinetown is darkly entertaining

By Deena Wang

Corporate profits soar. A corrupt politician is bribed into raising fees for a necessary service, at the expense of the people. The people's protest is brutally suppressed by the police.

Oh, did I mention that this entire hubbub is over pay toilets?

# Urinetown is a satirical comedy about resource management, corporate greed, and peeing.

Urinetown, Musical Theater Guild's Spring 2012 show, is a satirical comedy about resource management, corporate greed, and peeing. Because of a 20-year drought, the Urine Good Company, led by evil CEO Caldwell B. Cladwell, has a monopoly over all the pay toilets in the city, charging usurious fees to conserve water. These fees hit the poor the hardest, who must scrape every penny just to take care of their basic bodily functions. Those who can't afford to pay and must relieve themselves outside get dragged to Urinetown, the mythical hell from which no person has ever returned.

Our hero, Bobby Strong, works for the strict Penelope Pennywise at Public Amenity #9, the filthy urinal relegated to the huddled masses, until the deportation of his father to Urinetown and the encouragement of Hope Cladwell to "listen to his heart" persuade him to lead a rebellion for the freedom to pee.

The cast features Trevor J. Mulchay '15, who played Billy Rogers in Hack Punt Tool, as Bobby Strong. Once again the heroic protagonist, he delivers a strong performance, wielding his plunger as a call to arms. As Hope Cladwell, the daughter of Caldwell B. Cladwell (Matt Behlmann G), Krista Sergi's bubbly acting and rich voice reinforce her role as both a daddy's girl and the ever-optimistic enabler of the rebellion. Karen Hart '11's powerful voice as Penelope Pennywise can be a bit overwhelming, but her acting is spot-on. Other notable characters include Officer Lockstock (Carlos Cardenas-Iniguez '09) and Little Sally (Anna Y. Ho '14), the Rosencrantz and Guildenstern duo that serve as

Urinetown's set design is less elaborate than previous MTG shows, but it gets the job done. The yellow trees on the side of the set could be withered from the lack of water, or covered in spring buds. The complex, four-part harmony of "Why did I Listen to that Man?" is textured and interwoven with rapid-fire lyrics. I particularly enjoyed the *Thriller* references in the "We're Not Sorry"

dance scene when the body count steadily rises throughout the song.

One of the more unusual aspects of the musical is its self-aware narrators, Officer Lockstock and Little Sally. Their commentary spoils the mystery of the famed Urinetown for the audience, which adds dramatic irony when characters are threatened with the fate of being banished there. However, their meta-commentary is compartmentalized and separate from the reality of the rest of the characters, preventing their omniscience from becoming tiresome.

# Yet neither of the options the play provides, privation and profiteering or freedom and ultimate destruction, are appealing.

The show goes deeper than most musicals. Water shortages and the need for conservation may become a regular part of our own future, as climate change intensifies drought and flood. The contrast between corporate opulence and poor protestors is reminiscent of the recent Occupy move-

**Urinetown** 

**MIT MTG** 

Directed by Kaitlin Burroughs

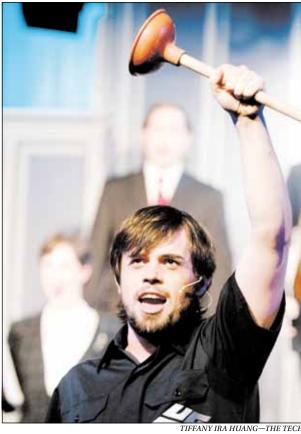
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ments, which is referenced in the protest signs on-stage.

Yet neither of the options the play provides, privation and profiteering or freedom and ultimate destruction, are appealing. Tapping into the fears of our founding fathers, who instituted a system of government that was intentionally removed from direct democracy, the musical equates popular rule with shortsightedness, and bureaucracy with preservation of the future. In the end, the purpose of the arts is to bring issues to mind, and not to propose solutions. Urinetown's satirical style allows it to comment on the cost and consequences of freedom without coming off as moralistic.

MTG's Spring 2012 production of *Urinetown* is a polished production, combining lowbrow and highbrow commentary. Just remember that, despite the cheerful music, it is not a happy musical.



Plunger-wielding Bobby Strong (Trevor J. Mulchay '15) leads a call to arms against potty oppression in MTG's production of *Urinetown* 



TIFFANY IRA HUANG—THE TECH

Penelope Pennywise (Karen Hart '11) leads a spirited rally during a scene in *Urinetown*, MTG's newest production.

#### THEATER REVIEW

# Intrigue in Boston

#### Curtains is a delight

By Cathy Zhou

Next House presented their self-produced musical Curtains over CPW and last Sunday, in celebration of the dorm's 30th anniversary. Curtains, originally written by Rupert Holmes, tells the tale of the murder case that occurs in a Boston theater. The star of the show, Jessica Cranshaw (Tiffany J. Lin '11), is shot in the beginning of her performance and a detective by the name of Lieutenant Frank Cioffi (Staly Chin '15) comes to unravel the mystery of the murder. Baffled by the fact that Cranshaw's costars and director were glad that she passed away, the detective puts everyone on his suspects list. In this play, there are relationship issues with cast members, rekindling of love,

mother-daughter issues, boat shows, and newspaper critics from *The Boston Globe*!

This witty musical was directed by Johari M. Frasier '13 and Lynda Williams '12. Frasier chose the piece because he felt like it would welcome prefrosh to MIT by showing them a musical set in Boston. He believes *Curtains* is uncannily similar to MIT's environment. "Sometimes we spend hours working and nothing seems to come out right," he said, "but because we keep trying it does come together in the end and we're stronger for it." For instance, the song "On the Same Boat," bemoans life's struggles, but emphasizes that we can all pull our weight to work together — a theme to which many MIT students can relate.

In addition, the show has comedic ele-

ments that paint scenes of characters with flaws, desires, and different goals.

Some of the cast had never been in a musical before. Staly Chin had never danced, sang, or acted on stage prior to coming to Next Act. Despite this, he landed the main role and played the inquisitive, yet vulnerable, detective perfectly.

His character falls in love with a very convincing and gorgeous murder suspect, causing his feelings and thought processes to be compromised in certain scenes, all of which he navigated beautifully. Victoria Sun '14, who plays the lovely Nikki, Lt. Cioffi's girlfriend, could have fooled the audience into making them think she was the murderer. In reality, her character is that of a somewhat ditzy ingénue.

Completely run by students, and entertaining in its execution, the show deserved a standing ovation!

#### **Curtains**

**Next Act** 

Directed by Johari Frasier

April 19-21 and April 29
George Hoskera TFL, Next
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# Once remote, Goldman Sachs puts on a friendly public face

By Michael J. De La Merced THE NEW YORK TIMES

After a steady stream of criticism since the financial crisis, Goldman Sachs is trying to burnish its image.

Last week, the company's chief executive, Lloyd C. Blankfein, gave rare back-to-back televised interviews to CNBC and Bloomberg Television, in which he emphasized the company's focus on clients. On Wednesday, he spoke at a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender conference called "Out on the Street," explaining the company's support for gay rights. In recent weeks, Goldman executives have been more talkative with reporters.

By stepping into the spotlight even a little, Goldman appears to be embarking on a subtle campaign to repair its reputation. The bank's message is simple: Goldman cares about its clients and its community.

It is unclear whether such moves will change public perception, in large part because Goldman does not have a new story to tell. The financial company made another public relations push a couple of years ago, with little success. In 2010, Goldman — still

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, Goldman hunkered down, as the company became a symbol of Wall Street excess.

reeling from congressional hearings, a government lawsuit and a less-than-flattering portrayal as a "vampire squid" in a Rolling Stone article - rolled out a series of national advertisements aimed at improving its public standing.

But with its latest effort, Goldman is taking a different tack by reaching out even though there is no blowup.

"Any time that you're engaging proactively is a good thing," said Michael W. Robinson, an executive vice president at Levick Strategic Communications, a public relations firm. "The press around Goldman is never going to go down to zero, but the goal is to be less interesting and less attractive as a

Goldman has long been wary of courting the public. Goldman was a private partnership until 1999. Its first public relations executive worked from his apartment in Manhattan, laboring under the principle that most press was bad press, according to a book about Goldman Sachs, "Money and Power," by William D. Cohan.

In the aftermath of the financial crisis, Goldman hunkered down, as the company became a symbol of Wall Street excess. While other banking chiefs vocally defended their companies, Blankfein largely remained quiet. The company even pulled back on granting interviews for noncontentious events like quarterly earnings.

The company's top public relations official at the time, Lucas van Praag, was alternately admired and scorned for couching withering dismissals of critics in elegant phrases. Among van Praag's greatest hits were his dismissals of news articles as "effluent," "frankly, pretty stupid" and "chimera produced by a febrile mind."

Now Goldman is taking its com-

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munication cues from a new executive. In March, the company hired Richard Siewert Jr., a former Clinton press secretary who was a senior adviser to Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner until last year, to head public relations.

Siewert, known as Jake, immediately faced a trial by fire.

Just before Siewert joined Goldman, the company was rebuked by a Delaware state judge for its conduct in the sale of a client, the El Paso Corp. The judge, Chancellor Leo E. Strine Jr., criticized the investment bank for playing both sides of the deal, given that it owned a stake in El Paso's acquirer, Kinder Morgan.

Siewert's first official day on the job coincided with the publication of an article on the Op-Ed page of The New York Times by Greg Smith, a former Goldman executive who denounced a "toxic and destructive" environment in which some colleagues belittled clients as "muppets." The piece helped rekindle the continuing debate about Goldman's practices, while stirring up strong defenses of the company within its ranks of executives and alumni.

Since then, Goldman seems to have begun a low-key charm offensive. In late April, Blankfein, appearing relaxed without a suit jacket, sat down with CNBC and Bloomberg at a company conference on emerging markets. Buoyant and smiling, he reiterated the company's client-centric philosophy, while acknowledging that the company had some work to do.

"Obviously, it has occurred to us that we haven't gotten everything right," he told CNBC.

Blankfein's higher profile has extended beyond television interviews. In February, he became the Human Rights Campaign's first national corporate spokesman for same-sex marriage, saying publicly what he had advocated more privately for years. On Wednesday, he elaborated on his views, telling a crowd in New York that Goldman's support of gay marriage had cost it at least one prominent client.

"They didn't want to continue a relationship that they had with us in money management," he told the "Out on the Street" audience, according to news reports. He declined to name the company, but added, "If you heard the name, it wouldn't surprise you."

Even client-focused events, independent of public relations efforts, may engender good will. Goldman is planning a new conference, the "Builders and Innovators Summit," a salon of sorts where established entrepreneurs can meet and mentor up-and-comers.

The conference, scheduled for te October in Newport Calif., arose from two years of discussions with senior management about how to better engage entrepreneurs. In many ways, it harks back to Goldman's roots in helping nascent companies, including working years ago with Sears, Roebuck and Ford Motor Co. on their public stock offerings.

"The more of this that they do, the more that they reduce anxiety about the firm," Robinson said.

#### Solution to Sudoku

| 6      | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
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| 2      | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 4      | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 5      | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 5<br>9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 8      | 9 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
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THE TECH 11

# MITx to stay; other universities will add own versions

edX to remain free, in contrast to similar for-profit online programs at west coast schools

edX, from Page 1

same time increase educational opportunities for learners and teachers across the planet," said MIT President Susan J. Hockfield at a press conference on Wednesday.

MITx will become a part of edX, but MIT courses will still retain the MITx branding. Similarly, Harvard courses will be part of "Harvardx." EdX is being billed as an open platform that other universities can join to offer their own courses. Students who complete courses via edX can earn certificates of completion for a "modest" fee, according to edX officials. Those who don't want to pay can access course material for free, but will not earn a certificate.

Hockfield and Harvard President Drew G. Faust were accompanied at Wednesday's event by key backers of MITx, and now edX. Anant Agarwal, who announced in March he would step down from his role as CSAIL head to run MITx full-time, will become edX's first president. Provost L. Rafael Reif, who has been at the forefront of MITx, was present with his Harvard counterpart, Alan M. Garber.

The announcement was met with fanfare by the administrations of both schools and by many in the national press. But the creation of edX underscores big and as-yet unanswered questions about the nature of online education, many of which have been raised by students and faculty here since the December MITx announcement.

How, for example, will the edX platform be used to enhance oncampus learning at Harvard and MIT? How will "soft" questions, like free-responses and essays, be graded automatically and online? And

how will university officials know whether edX is actually working to enhance a residential education? Is this the future of higher education?

EdX backers acknowledge that these are important questions, but say that at these early stages many are hard to answer.

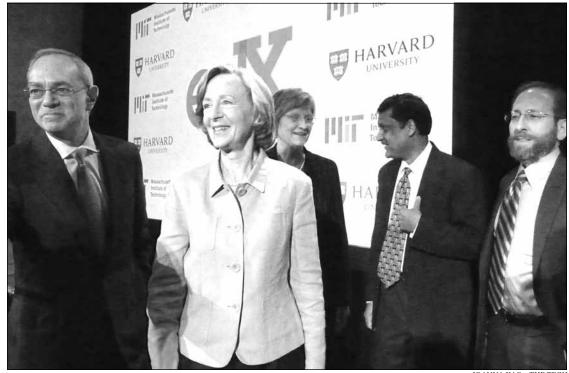
In a conference call with the press, Agarwal said that edX is both an educational and research initiative. Experimenting with how students interact with online learning technology, he says, will help both institutions make their online and residential learning experiences better.

He suggested, for example, that edX may try "crowdsourcing or machine-learning technology" to grade free-responses and essays online.

The issue of how, exactly, online learning will complement a residential education at MIT has already received significant attention from faculty members here. The January/February faculty newsletter was devoted in large part to MITx, with some faculty saying more attention should be paid to the model for an on-campus education in the age of MITx.

"There has certainly been focus on what technology-enhanced delivery of courses might look like, but not so much on the long-term impact on our residential students. But the long-range projection that distance learning may ultimately jeopardize the viability of our current residential education experience has received insufficient attention," wrote Chair of the Faculty Samuel M. Allen PhD '75.

Agarwal says that a pilot group of MIT students taking 6.002x — the MITx pilot course — has already



JOANNA KAO—THE TECH

**Susan J. Hockfield smiles for the camera** after the press conference introducing edX, MIT and Harvard's new online learning collaboration.

shed light on how the on-campus educational experience will change in the coming years. Students could do short video tutorials on their own time to learn the textbook-type knowledge that is traditionally conveyed in big lecture halls, he said. Then, they would come to class for one-on-one work with professors and TAs in a laboratory setting.

"I'd like to work with smaller groups of students," said Allen in a January interview about MITx. "My favorite kind of interactions are office-hour type interactions, where a group is sitting around a table discussing course material in a highly interactive way."

How Harvard and MIT will assess the success of edX at improving residential education is also not clear, but Garber says faculty at both schools will be actively engaged in answering that question.

"We have assembled groups of faculty to measure how well we're doing," he said, adding that the process would take years.

The space of Internet-based online education is populating quickly. Piggybacking on its success offering online computer science courses last year, Stanford University has joined with Princeton University, University of Michigan, and University of Pennsylvania to offer online courses through Coursera, a company founded by two Stanford professors. Udacity, also founded by a Stanford professor, has a similar mission.

EdX distinguishes itself from these West-coast efforts by tying itself to the educational missions of both institutions and by stressing its not-for-profit model. (Reif has said in the past that MITx is expected to be profitable, but that "the driver is not money.")

EdX expects to offer its first slate of courses this fall.

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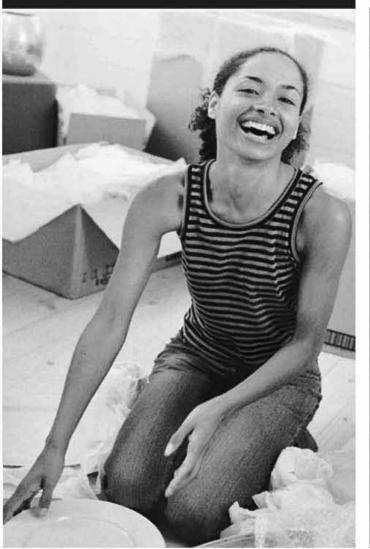
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#### Housing in Kendall a key element

Proposals from Forest City and MIT coordinate with Cambridge

Kendall, from Page 1

north of Random, 298–334 Mass. Ave. They were back at the planning board with a revised proposal on Tuesday.

Responding to repeated concerns from Cambridge residents about the lack of housing, Forest City proposes building a residential tower on Sidney Street behind the firehouse, between Mass. Ave and Green Street. A small square of park at the Mass Ave/Sidney intersection would remain open, complementing the open space of Lafayette Square across the street.

Forest City's zoning petition was originally filed in February 2011, and was allowed to expire in July 2011. The planning board and the city council have until August to act on the petition. At the meeting, staff of Cambridge's Community Development Department spoke positively about Forest City's proposal. City Councilor E. Denise Simmons was present, but offered no comment.

Peter Calkins, executive vice president at Forest City, did not respond to requests for the slides presented to the planning board.

Both Forest City's 300 Mass. Ave. project and MIT's Kendall re-envisioning are using David P. Manfredi of Elkus Manfredi architects. Manfredi is also the architect for 610 Main Street, the new building MIT is leasing to Pfizer that is midway between Kendall Square and 300 Mass Ave.

#### K2C2 update

David Dixon, the city's consultant running the Kendall-to-Central study, provided an update to the planning board after the Forest City petition. Dixon's presentation was quite similar to other recent presentations he has made about the K2C2 status, including at a public meeting in April, as well as presentation to the Cambridge City Council. He describes buildings in Kendall reach-

ing as high as 300 feet — currently, buildings in Kendall are substantially shorter — and a requirement that residential construction to complete before the entirety of commercial development can be finished.

#### MIT's new vision for Kendall

Entitled "Reimagining Kendall Square," Marsh's presentation highlighted four separate areas of Kendall Square that MIT looks to change: Broad Canal Way, the area behind One Broadway; Point Park Riverwalk, a reimagining of Wadsworth Street; an Infinite Corridor extension, from E25 to E53 across what are currently parking lots; and the Main Street District.

Marsh is the managing director of real estate for MITIMCo. As of 2009, the most recent year for which data are available, he is MIT's fifth-highest-paid employee and makes \$730,000/year.

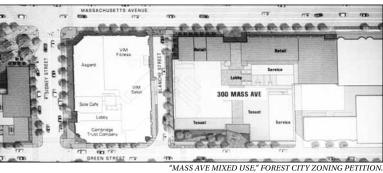
Marsh's four areas represent geographically distinct portions of Kendall Square. On Main Street, MIT only owns the south side; the north side of Main is owned by Boston Properties. Marsh said MIT intended to retain the historical character of the south side of Main, so it would not change appreciably, though he hinted some

buildings might shift and see extensive restoration.

While Marsh offered no specifics on housing, he indicated that the lot adjacent to One Broadway was now intended for a future residential tower, and not a research or lab building as previously envisioned in last year's proposal. Planning board members, especially Steve Winter, were "very pleased to see that." Marsh added that there might be some office space inside that residential building, to help accommodate innovation clusters.

The board seemed most impressed by the riverwalk proposal, linking Point Park to the river via Wadsworth Street. Marsh pointed out that Wadsworth was the only intersection on Memorial Drive with a traffic signal.

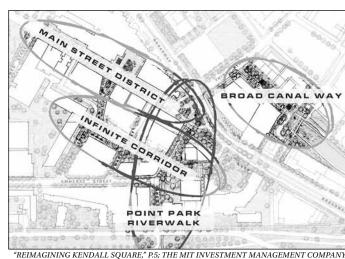
MIT's detailed proposal should be released on the next month, and MIT is tentatitvely scheduled to present it to the planning board on June 19. Meanwhile, the City Council continues to grapple with the K2C2 consultant's work. After a two-hour presentation last week when they only made it halfway through the materials, the council intends to schedule a half-day retreat later this month to go over the proposals.



Forest City has petitioned the city for zoning changes to permit building a new life sciences research building. The proposed building would have ground-floor retail frontage on Massachusetts Avenue, and a lobby passageway through from Mass. Ave. to Green Street. Additionally, Forest City proposes to build a residential development north of Sidney Street replacing much of the park that adjoins the firehouse.



Point Park in Kendall Square is at the south end of Main Street, where it meets Broadway, Wadsworth, Third Street. MITIMCo envisions that Wadsworth street, off the left edge of this photo, would be broadened into a wide riverwalk leading to the Charles. The globe fountain is Joe Davis's 1989 sculpture: "Galaxy: Earth Sphere."



MIT's zoning proposal will address four areas of Kendall Square that MIT controls. The south side of Main Street; an extended outdoor "infinite corridor" from E25 to E53; a riverwalk from Point Park down Wadsworth Street to the Charles River; and the region between One Broadway and Broad Canal, where MIT intends to build a new building.

# The Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding System (Sloanbid) Bidding Dates for Fall, 2012 Courses

#### https://sloanbid.mit.edu

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.

<u>Institute-wide bidding for Sloan (Course 15) subjects\*:</u>

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 11

Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 18

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 12

Closes 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 26

Section Swap Round for changing sections of pre-enrolled Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 31

Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 7

Please contact Scott Alessandro, <u>salessan@mit.edu</u>, if you have questions regarding Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 6 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 12 -- write down your password to check results!

\*For 15.011, 15.031J, 15.279, 15.301, 15.305, 15.310, 15.411, 15.501, and 15.516, you can sign up directly through WebSIS starting May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not necessary to bid for these courses.

# Search might conclude in June

#### President will oversee capital campaign, edX, MIT-Russia

**Presidential search,** from Page 1

president," said Champy.

#### Why so fast?

The current search is expected to run its course in almost half of the time as the previous one. Hockfield was selected in 2004 after an eightmonth process, but if completed by June, the current search will have taken less than four.

"Unlike 2004, I think MIT is in a very different position," said Champy, referencing ongoing initiatives like edX, the MIT-Russia partnership, and preparations for a new capital fundraising campaign. "Those three alone suggest we don't want to spend an unduly long time to find the next president," he said. "There's just too much to do."

Reed added that the committee can feasibly complete the search in less time because it is meeting more often than it has before. The committee holds meetings at least once per week, he says, with some additional Saturday meetings scheduled. Work gets completed by committee members in-between meetings as well.

"We're in the process of trying to get a [capital] campaign going," Reed said. "We could do some work without a president, but at some point we have to define what [the campaign] is."

In such capital campaigns, MIT raises money to support big institutional objectives including (but not limited to) new construction and renovation, scholarships and fellowships, research, and student life. University presidents play a major role fundraising for their institutions.

Champy says that MIT is "undercapitalized" as an institution — that is, it needs more money than it

currently has to support its operations long-term. Fixing that situation means raising money for MIT's \$10 billion endowment, he says.

#### What does MIT want in a president?

Since March, the search committee has collected input from students, faculty, and trustees about what they want to see in the next president. The student advisory group to the search committee released a report last month outlining their findings — chief among them were a desire to see someone who would address issues like campus planning, education (especially in relation to MITx), and "student wellness and balance."

And in the most recently faculty newsletter, faculty members put forth their own expectations for a president and even suggested 10 people who they thought could do the job. Reed said that the faculty's suggestions almost or completely overlapped with the names already under consideration by the search committee.

In the newsletter, some faculty asked whether a new president would continue Hockfield-era policies or forge their own path.

"Ultimately, you want someone who's going to be his or her own person. But at the same time, institutionally, we've made some decisions. So we're more likely to find someone who is sympathetic to the things we've started," said Champy.

But he and Reed stressed that while the new president will likely have a strong interest in continuing many of Hockfield's big projects, "we certainly have not said that continuity is vitally important," according to Reed.

"You have to be careful not

to have the new president be defined by the past president," added Champy.

Many initiatives, like edX and MIT 2030, are in early stages and can adapt to the priorities and preferences of a new president, Reed said.

Champy also said that the committee wants a president who is "thoughtful" and listens to the people who make up MIT — namely, faculty and students. "We don't want a president who thinks that they know what MIT needs," he said.

Students and faculty have expressed to the committee a need for a president who understands and cultivates an MIT "community" — that is, a spirit of cohesiveness and collaboration that crosses departmental boundaries.

"Students have said, 'we learn here, we do research here, and this is our home.' Our president must recognize that this is their home," said Champy. "This place works together in ways other institutions do not, and that is a critical characteristic."

What's left for the committee to do? Though they have begun talking to candidates, says Reed, more work remains to be done in terms of examining a person's background and track record. The search committee must also make time to meet with the Corporation's executive committee before anything will become official.

Though the Corporation's June 7 meeting comes the day before Commencement, Reed says the Corporation will not let a presidential announcement overshadow the day's activities; the official word would come some time before or after Friday's Commencement, assuming the search process concludes in the expected timeframe.

User manual not included because user manuals are for wusses.

LEGATUM LECTURE



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Bob Dorf

Serial Entrepreneur & Author

or

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No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org





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Joachim Koester

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Conversation with Joachim Koester and curator João Ribas 5:30 PM, Bartos Theatre

On view: May 10 – July 8, 2012

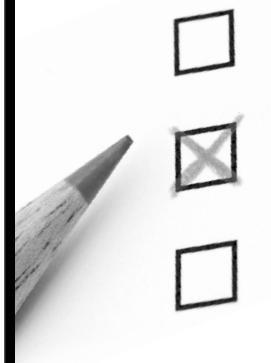
Wiesner Building E-15 | 20 Ames Street | Cambridge | MA | 02139 http://listart.mit.edu 14 THE TECH FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012

#### Coop Student Board of Directors

# Election Update

The following student Coop members have been elected to the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 academic year.

# Congratulations!



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#### MIT Undergraduate Students:

Joshua Dunaway, 2014 Paige Finkelstein, 2014 Emma Kane, 2015

#### MIT Graduate Students:

Ellie Bertani, MBA, Sloan/MPA, HKS, 2013 Samuel Shaner, PhD, 2015

#### **Harvard Undergraduate Students:** Cody Dean, 2014

Joshua Zhang, 2014

#### Harvard Graduate Students:

Christina Adams, MBA, 2013 Oliver Hauser, PhD, 2015 May Lam, MBA, 2013 Allison Trzop, JD, 2013



www.thecoop.com

#### MIT professors and alumni elected to National Academy of Sciences

Four MIT professors and six MIT alumni were elected to the National Academy of Sciences this past Tuesday, May 1. This election brings the total number of MIT faculty members who are part of the Academy to 78, and the number of MIT affiliates — emeritus and former faculty, current and former staff, and alumni — to 199, according to a press release from the MIT News Office. Membership honors those who have made signif-

icant contributions in original research. In total, 84 new members and 21 foreign associates were elected this year.

The National Academy of Sciences, signed into existence by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, is a non-profit, roughly 2600 member, private institution tasked with advising the government on issues relating to science, engineering and medicine and technology.

—Deborah Chen

#### **MIT professors**

**Barbara H. Liskov**, Institute professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

**Subra Suresh ScD '81**, current National Science Foundation director and former dean of MIT's School of Engineering

Robert Townsend, professor of economics

**Richard A. Young**, professor of biology and member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

#### MIT alumni

**John B. Bell '75**, senior staff scientist and group leader, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**Jagdish N. Bhagwati PhD '67**, professor of economics and professor of political science, Columbia University

**Pablo G. Debenedetti '81, PhD '85**, professor of chemical and biological engineering, Princeton University

John T. Groves III '65, professor of chemistry, Princeton University

Marcia J. Rieki '72, PhD '76, professor of astronomy, University of Arizona

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{William R. Young PhD '81}, professor of physical oceanography, University of California at San Diego\\ \end{tabular}$ 

WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO WAN



"There are two kids of secrets: those we keep from others and those

we hide from our lyes."

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012
THE TECH 15

# For Chinese, a man in the news is much discussed

By Michael Wines and Sharon Lafraniere

BEIJING — Those outside of China know him as Chen Guangcheng, the self-trained lawyer whose crusade for individual rights has led him to confinement, escape, and now an international diplomatic incident. Ordinary people inside China refer to him online in a different, coded way.

First he was "blind lawyer;" then "blind man," then "A Bing," a reference to a nationally famous blind singer. All were blotted out by the Chinese government's pervasive, highly computerized security apparatus.

Lately, his plight has been referred to as "UA898" — the daily United Airlines flight from Beijing to Washington that this week has come to symbolize Chen's demand to emigrate to the United States rather than face an uncertain future in his homeland.

Chen's demands to be treated like any other Chinese citizen have galvanized much of the world and incited a global debate over China's human rights policies not seen since another Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo, was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

But in the airless space for discussion that is contemporary China, neither Chen nor Liu is a suitable topic for debate. They are nonentities, or, if they are referred to at all, they are vague threats to the harmonious society that President Hu Jintao promised when he assumed power at the start of the last decade.

"The West and its supporters in China always need a tool to work against China's current political system," the nationalistic state-run newspaper *Global Times* wrote this week in one of the first offi-

cial mentions of the Chen dispute. "Those who want to plot against China by making use of Chen Guangcheng may be just deluding themselves."

The official position was stated most doggedly, perhaps, on Thursday, when the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Liu Weimin, was asked to explain why Chen had long been a prisoner in his own home, an incarceration long described in written and video reports, accepted worldwide, as brutal and unending.

"After Chen Guangcheng was released from prison, he is a free person as far as I know. He has

been living in his own house," Liu stated. Challenged on that, he responded, "That's what you said. As far as I know, he's living in his hometown."

He also deflected a spate of other questions about Chen and Liu Xiaobo's wife, Liu Xia, mostly saying that China's legal system ensures proper treatment of all citizens.

The facts of Chen's detention are, of course, undisputed. But in a year of change, when China's entire leadership is poised for decennial turnover at a Communist Party congress this autumn, there is scant incentive to rock the boat.

#### **MIT AMSA presents:**

# 5K Walk/Run for Boston Children's Hospital

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SUNDAY, MAY 6 at 2 PM KRESGE PITS Tickets are \$5

This space donated by The Tech

# Getting help is as easy as 1, 2,



Starting May 7<sup>th</sup>, S<sup>3</sup> has extended hours and additional walk-in times! Stop by 5-104 during walk-in hours between 9-10am and 2-3pm or call to schedule an appointment, 617-253-4861.

We would also like to remind you to take advantage of the many resources available for academic, social and personal support. S<sup>3</sup>, Community Wellness, MIT Mental Health & Counseling, Housemasters, GRTs, RLAs and Advisors are all here to support you. If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't go it alone. Working together, we'll find a way.

# **MITogether**

http://together.mit.edu

| Extended Hours May 7-18 |     |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Monday                  | 9-6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday                 | 9-6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wednesday               | 9-6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Thursday                | 9-6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Friday                  | 9-5 |  |  |  |  |  |

#### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: MITCHELL H. KATES '13

# Kates dominates the court as MIT point guard

Athlete balances playing basketball with Course 6-3, startups, and his fraternity

By Nidharshan Anandasivam

Mitchell H. Kates '13 is a Course 6-3 (Computer Science and Engineering) junior on the MIT Varsity Basketball Team who has been recognized for his stellar play on numerous occasions throughout high school and college. During high school, Kates won the Kerwin Award, awarded to the best player in the Shore Conference (New Jersey), broke the career assists record at Colts Neck High School, and received a gold medal on the National U-16 United States Maccabi Basketball Team in Israel in 2005. After coming to MIT, Kates became NEWMAC Rookie of the Year as a freshman, was selected to the NEWMAC all-conference team all three years, and was a 4th team All-American

#### Kates became **NEWMAC Rookie of** the Year as a freshman and was a 4th team All-American this year.

Aside from basketball, Mitchell is passionate about web development and startups and is taking a class (Advanced Entrepreneurial Techniques) designed specifically to help startups develop their ideas. He is currently working on a project called GroupDough, with undergrads Ameesh K. Goyal '14 and Justin C. Helbert '13, that helps groups like fraternities and sororities fundraise by shopping online through affiliate links. During his free time, Mitchell likes to spend time at his fraternity (Lambda Chi Alpha) and take bike rides along the Charles.

The Tech sat down with Mitchell to discuss life as a student-athlete on the MIT Varsity Basketball Team.

The Tech: What do you like most about the MIT Basketball team?

Mitchell Kates: I love the camaraderie. I spend so much time with these guys both on and off the court. Everyone on the team is great friends with one another and that helps us get through the grind of such a long basketball season. We also have a great coaching staff and very entertaining assistant coaches. Towards the end of the year we had a number of long bus trips. "Words with Friends" became pretty

*TT*: Describe the challenges/difficulties of the point guard position that you play.

MK: I think being the point guard is the easiest position. Our forwards (big guys), like Noel Hollingsworth '12 and Will Tashman '13, have to bang inside on every play, and all I have to do is dribble and shoot. I think there is naturally a leadership role that is assumed by the point guard, and this has been something I have been developing continuously over the past three years.

TT: What initially got you into basketball?

MK: I have been playing basketball since I was nine years old; it has been my favorite sport since I was a little kid. There is nothing better than March Madness. I started high school as a 5'0" freshman and grew a foot by the time I graduated.

Being small presented a lot of challenges physically but it helped me develop skills that I otherwise might have neglected. I took a postgraduate year at Exeter before I came to MIT, which is a much more rigid and strict environment compared to public high school, but both experiences were

TT: How do you find a balance between classes and sports at MIT?

'Everyone on the team is great friends with one another and that helps us get through the grind.'

> Mitchell Kates ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

*MK*: Balancing the two can be difficult at times, especially in post season where we were off-campus three days a week. There is definitely time to balance both. I am currently taking 66 units, and there are times where I feel a little overwhelmed, but I enjoy the challenge.

TT: Describe your life as a member of the basketball team.

MK: Currently we are in the off season, during which we lift four days a week and play pick-up three days a week. The spring is a great time to catch up on some work that has backed up during the end of the season. During the season, we play on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and practice is from 5 to 7 p.m. I really look forward to the summer. I am working in New Jersey (where I live), and there are some great summer leagues by the shore that I will

TT: What is the most intense class that you are taking now?



Mitchell H. Kates '13 hustles past a **defender** in the Final Four game against Wisconsin-Whitewater on March 16.

MK: 6.170 (Web Programming). Although it is a great class with a lot of real world applications, it is definitely my most time consuming class. However, I enjoy all the projects and I get a chance to work with some great new web technologies.



Four MIT riders in prime position fight for intermediary sprint points.

# Cycling team wins ECCC title

#### Quinn and Bry earn individual season leader jerseys

By Matthieu Talpe TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

Two months ago, the MIT cycling team kicked off the Eastern Colle-

giate Cycling Conference (ECCC) road season with a near perfect team performance at the Rutgers' "Frozen Toed Season Opener." After eight consecutive

race weekends of consistent top results, the MIT cycling team held an unattainable lead in the team standings. Captains Adam P. Brv G and Katie J. Quinn G were assured to finish with the male and female individual season leader jerseys coming into the regular season finale, the "Live Free or Ride Harder" race weekend hosted by the University of New Hampshire on April 28 and 29.

In fact, twenty-four MIT cyclists attended and, boosted by high placing in all three races, the MIT team concluded an exceptional season by edging out the University of New Hampshire on its home turf and bringing home the ECCC trophy.

The MIT cycling team is sending six men and four women to the USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships, held May 4 through May 6 in Ogden, UT. Friday's event will consist of a 20-mile team time trial, followed Saturday by a 1-mile, 8-corner criterium race in downtown Ogden. The weekend will end with a road race that will include a four-mile long ascent up to 6,000



The MIT cycling team won the Easter Collegiate Conference Cycling Championships last weekend, beating out top teams such as West Point and Harvard.

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#### **UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

#### Friday, May 4

Track and field vs. New England Division III Championship Steinbrenner Stadium

#### Saturday, May 5

Track and field vs. New England Division III Championship Steinbrenner Stadium

Women's openweight crew vs. Boston College Cup Race TBA, Charles

ТВА,

ТВА,

Men's lacrosse vs. Pilgrim League Championship TBA, Roberts Field